



## Church Renovations

In late 2014 Hakata New Life Church took up a 'love for the house' offering to enable renovations to take place. Some renovations had taken place before the Gebert's arrival but the major renovation to the Church auditorium took place over a two week period in late August – early September 2015. The Gebert's were blessed to be able to be part of the team involved in this renovation.

Eugene in particular took great delight in assisting to pull down a wall, demolish the old sound desk area as well as running new sound cables in the roof and fixing ceiling tiles. Church members also spent countless hours over the two week period to ensure that renovations were completed on time. The result was a freshly painted auditorium with a new welcome lounge, new stage and carpet. The church meeting area was transformed into a place (con't page 2.....)



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## Arrival in Japan – A time of Blessing

After what seemed like a long period of preparation and waiting on visa's, the Gebert's have landed in Japan! Since their arrival on July 29, the Gebert's have been getting settled. This has meant spending a lot of time in government offices - registering everything from their address, national health insurance, opening a bank account and getting Japanese drivers licences. All of this has been time consuming but praise God that all of this has gone very smoothly.

The Gebert's were blessed upon arrival to be set up in a temporary apartment but as this was a distance from the Church and was quite small for a family the goal was to find a suitable apartment quickly.

A week after arriving in Japan the Gebert's felt to call in to a particular real estate agent who were so helpful. The need was for a 3LDK apartment (3 rooms with lounge/dining and kitchen) close to the Church and in a particular school district. An apartment was quickly found that the Gebert's absolutely loved, was in the correct school district and was even in the same street as the Church! Not only that but the apartment had no key money or deposit payable (which is usual practice in Japan and can equal up to 6 months' rent in advance). The apartment also came with 3 air conditioning units (a must for an apartment in Fukuoka and normally supplied by a tenant at considerable expense).

It took a few weeks to finalise the renting of the apartment as Japanese guarantors for the rent had to be finalised but praise God the Gebert's were able to move in on Monday 31 August. Members of the Church were an amazing blessing in getting things moved in which included moving a large fridge down 5 flights of stairs from the first apartment and moving it to the new apartment (which is on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor but thankfully has an elevator).

The week that the Gebert's arrived in Japan another miracle took place. Eugene was able to secure an interview at an English teaching company for part-time hours within the first few days of arrival. He was given the position straight away and Japan immigration also quickly approved the work permit for this role. This helps meet budget costs on field and also enables Eugene to build relationships in the community.

Both Eugene and Fiona have commenced building relationships with people in the community and God has also put new people across their paths who are interested in finding out more and getting involved in church activities.





where people can be comfortable coming into the presence of God, especially if they are coming for the first time.

The team at Hakata New Life Church are so proud of all the hard work that everyone put into loving God's house and getting ready for the new season ahead. Please keep praying for the growth and development of the church as it reaches out into the local community to love.



Thanks so much again to all those who have made this dream a reality. What an amazing thing God is doing here in Hakata New Life Church Fukuoka!

## IGNITE LIVE IS BACK!



How good is this! Taking fun church back to the streets of Japan and mixing it up by including a 5 minute English challenge to those passing by. How easy is this to engage people and get people involved and give them an experience of church.

## Thanks for your generosity!

We would like to give everyone a big thank you for helping us with setup costs. God's blessing through you has meant that we have been able to get into a good family apartment near the church and furnish it with much needed everyday things.

God has blessed us abundantly and is using us to be a blessing, reaching people and speaking into people's lives. This is only possible because of God's love shown through you joining with us and supporting us in every way.

Thank you Father for your family working together in love to reach Fukuoka and make a difference that is only possible because you loved us first. Please continue to use us to build your church.



## Ignite Ministry Commences

September has seen the start of Ignite ministries as a permanent feature of the church outreach landscape. There is a real buzz of excitement and expectation that the church is currently experiencing. The relaunch of Ignite English outreach and

Ignite Live both feed into the new weekly Sunday afternoon service "Ignite Praise". God is really beginning to do an amazing thing here through these new ministries.

Also helping with these new ministries is a visiting American group from Abundant Community Church. As well as this we also have someone assisting and serving from Hillsong Australia. God is really putting together a team with a heart of outreach &



Service to the church and Fukuoka Japan. God is also starting to raise up local Japanese leaders. We were seeking God for a new Praise and Worship leader and provided amazingly by an unexpected return of a leader from completion of study. Please continue to pray for us as we invite people along to these new events and that God builds his church.

We are believing that God will continue to draw people to Him and will use us to help raise more local leaders with a heart for the lost.

Thank you for standing with us in every way as we continue to serve and expand His kingdom here in Fukuoka Japan.



## Facts & Figures

### Kyushu – The gateway to Christianity in Japan

Did you know that Kyushu and Fukuoka was the birth place of missionary activity in Japan? Portuguese ships began arriving in Kyushu in 1543 and started trade with Japan. Catholic missionaries started spreading the gospel and had reached 300 000 people who became disciples. In 1587 Hideyoshi Toyotomi after reunifying Japan, gave an edict to ban all missionary activity. Due to some missionary activity continuing and with Hideyoshi's fear of rising dangerous people like Ikki Ikki, Hideyoshi killed the 26 martyrs of Japan in Nagasaki in 1597.

### Young Fukuoka

Fukuoka is becoming *the* place to live in Japan. The latest figures indicate that Fukuoka has grown 3.1% making it the number one growth city in Japan surpassing Sendai, Saitama, Kawasaki and Sapporo. 19.2% of Fukuoka's population is between the ages of 15 and 29! So it only makes sense that it is one of the best places to do young at heart outreach activity and ministry, connecting to all ages. Why not get even more involved yourself?

# Four ways individuals, churches and business can help.

Everyone can easily participate in the Gebert's journey by giving support in one of the four areas needed.



#### PRAYER

The Gebert's need your prayers as they step out in faith; with the vision of Japan as a nation that loves God. God sees Japan as it will be; a Christian nation.

There will be regular updates on how you can pray specifically for them and the situations they work with in Fukuoka and Japan. Pg 4 has their prayer needs.

We all need to keep God the central focus in all we do.



#### FINANCE & GIVING

Financial giving is so important and key to being able to do what needs to be done. One off donations are great, and regular monthly commitments essential.

Everyone can be a key part in God's work by simply making a commitment to support the Gebert's so that people who have never heard the good news have a chance to accept God's life changing love.

ALL IT TAKES IS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TO DECIDE TO NEVER TIRE OF DOING GOOD, OWN THE VISION & ACT



#### SOCIAL MEDIA

The Gebert's need the word to go out around Australia about what God has called them to do. They need everyone who has a heart to see Japan changed by the good news, to share with their friends how they too can become involved.

This can be done through Facebook by going to <https://www.facebook.com/japan directions>, and liking and sharing with your friends and talking to them about it. At the moment the Facebook site's purpose is to draw people to the website <http://japandirections.com/>. This is where people can find all the information needed on the work the Geberts are doing and more.

At the moment there are 154 likes on Facebook, which is a great start. Keep the momentum going and get the word out directing people to both the Facebook and webpages where all the relevant information and forms can be found as well as commendations.



#### SENDING SHORT TERM TEAMS

As part of their vision the Gebert's are interested in hearing from their supporters who have teams with talents that could be used on field in evangelistic outreach activities.

It is important that teams come with their skills identified and developed and prepared to serve. The Gebert's would love to consider having you along on field. The website will have a login section where teams will be able to have access to all relevant information for them including maps, itineraries, emergency contact information, some basic survival language kits and a place to share photos and experiences.

Again, this is available to those who are already supporting them. They will be under the direction of the senior pastor and the Geberts.



## Upcoming Events

### [Breakthrough Conference](#)

The month of September is 'heart for the lost' month for New Life Church (Hakata). Sermons are focused on developing a heart for the lost and outreach into the local community is taking place daily.

A breakthrough conference is being held at the church on September 26 with guest speaker, Ps. Masato Hosoe from GraceCity Church in Nagoya, Japan. The aim is to challenge and speak into the hearts and minds of church members. This will be followed by an outreach service on Sunday 27 September.

### [Japan AOG District Meeting](#)

The Gebert family will attend their first monthly District meeting with the Japan Assemblies of God on Monday 5 October. This will be a valuable time of getting to know other Pastors from the surrounding area.

The regional AOG conference will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of November with the exciting theme – 'Behold, I will do a new thing'.

## Praise and Prayer Points

- Praise God that the Visa application went smoothly.
- Praise God for 3 year Visas!
- Praise God that Jessica and Elyssa have settled into life in Japan well!
- Praise God that Eugene was able to find part time work quickly and that Japanese immigration approved him to work (His perfect timing as when they came to Japan it was just in time for the recruitment season too).
- Praise God that the Geberts were able to find the perfect apartment for their family's needs in the right school zone right near the church (at only half the expected outlay and with lots of essentials included that wouldn't ordinarily be included).
- Praise God that Jessica has been enrolled in the school of our choice commencing April next year!
- Praise God for smooth processes for everything from drivers licence changeover, through to National Health registration, opening a bank account and getting phones etc.
- Please pray for placements to immediately open up for the kids at a local Hoikuen (Kindy). We are believing for Fiona to work part time too so that we can make budget. This will also allow the kids to make friends and start learning language. Especially important for Jessica as she starts school next year (April 2016).
- Please pray for the Ignite Praise ministries – Ignite English, Ignite live, 5 minute English Challenge, Ignite Praise.
- Please pray for hearts to be open to our invitations and ready to accept the good news. So far we have had a lot of positive responses to our invitations.
- Please continue to pray for more financial supporters. Some short term support needs to be replaced in the near future.

